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Message Text

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64
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DRAFTED BY AF/C:JSBLODGETT:L/M:HFSHAMWELL, JR.:DJP
APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN
L/AF:FWILLIS
L/ECP:JHBUSHONG
---------- 041653
P 100016Z JAN 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AREG, CM

SUBJECT: INTERPRETATION OF FAM REGULATIONS ON
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

REF: A) YAOUNDE 0076
B) STATE 301420

1. DEPARTMENT HAS EXAMINED AND DIGESTED STATEMENTS CONTAINED REF A.

2. IN VIEW OF INFORMATION PROVIDED PARA 2, REF A, WHICH APPARENTLY SIGNIFIES EMBASSY'S CONCLUSION (IN RESPONSE TO QUERY RAISED PARA 5, REF B) THAT GRATIS MEMBERSHIPS IN MT. FEBE PALACE CD CLUB HAVE BEEN OFFERED TO AND GENERALLY ACCEPTED BY OTHER EMBASSIES, AND AMBASSADOR'S RELATED CONCLUSION, EXPRESSED IN UNAMBIGUOUS TERMS, THAT ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH MEMBERSHIPS WOULD NOT ONLY RAISE NO POSSIBILITY OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST, BUT WOULD, IN ADDITION, SERVE THE US NATIONAL INTEREST IN AN IMPORTANT WAY, DEPARTMENT SEES NO FURTHER OBJECTION TO ACCEPTANCE OF HOTEL OFFER. HOWEVER, PER PARA 2, REF B, OFFER MUST
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BE MADE TO STATE DEPARTMENT AND NOT TO INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS

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IN VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 1, SECTION 9 PARA 8 OF US CONSTI-
TUTION.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD REQUEST LETTER FROM HOTEL CONFIRMING
OFFER OF GRATIS MEMBERSHIPS TO ALL EMBASSY DIPLOMATIC
LIST PERSONNEL (WITHOUT STATING NAMES). UPON RECEIPT
OF THAT LETTER, AMBASSADOR AUTHORIZED TO RESPOND IN
WRITING, ACCEPTING OFFER ON BEHALF OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE
(MEMBERSHIP CARDS MAY BE ISSUED LATER TO INDIVIDUAL
OFFICERS BY NAME). COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE
POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.

4. DEPARTMENT ADVISES THAT PURPOSE OF ITS REQUEST FOR
CLEAR, CONCISE, LOGICAL AND UNAMBIGUOUS JUSTIFICATION
FOR ACCEPTANCE OF GRATIS MEMBERSHIP OFFER WAS TO ENSURE
PROTECTION OF EMBOFFS SHOULD ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST
ALLEGATIONS BE LODGED NOW OR IN THE FUTURE. THIS RE-
QUEST BEARS NO RELATIONSHIP TO, AND IN FACT DOES NOT
REFLECT, ANY DOUBTS CONCERNING EMBOFFS' PERSONAL
INTEGRITY. THIS ISSUE HAS NEVER BEEN RAISED BY OR IN
DEPARTMENT. KISSINGER

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